

Message Text

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FOLLOWING IS REPEAT STATE 000231, SENT CANBERRA, WELLINGTON, OTTAWA, MEXICO, GUATEMALA, BELIZE, TEGUCIGALPA, SAN SALVADOR, MANAGUA, SAN JOSE, PANAMA, DUBLIN, LONDON, BRASILIA, BUENOS AIRES, MONTEVIDEO, PORT AU PRINCE, SANTO DOMINGO, GENEVA, MTN GENEVA, TOKYO, EC PRUSSELS, 01 JAN 76:

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS EAGR, ETRD

SUBJECT: U.S. MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM FOR 1976

ON DECEMBER 31, 1975 THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE: QUOTE: VOLUNTARY MEAT IMPORT RESTRAINTS BEING NEGOTIATED FOR 1976.

WASHINGTON, DEC. 31--SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE EARL J. BUTZ ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS NEGOTIATING VOLUNTARY ARRANGEMENTS WITH SUPPLYING COUNTRIES TO ASSURE THAT 1976 IMPORTS SUBJECT TO THE MEAT IMPORT LAW WILL FALL BELOW THE TRIGGER LEVEL FOR QUOTA IMPOSITION UNDER THE LAW.

PUBLIC LAW 88-482 ENACTED IN AUGUST 1964 PROVIDES THAT IF YEARLY IMPORTS OF CERTAIN MEATS--PRIMARILY FROZEN BEEF--ARE ESTIMATED TO EQUAL OR EXCEED 110 PERCENT OF AN ADJUSTED BASE QUANTITY, QUOTAS ARE TO BE IMPOSED ON THE IMPORTS OF
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THESE MEATS. THE ADJUSTED BASE QUANTITY FOR 1976 IS 1,129.9

MILLION POUNDS, AND TRIGGER LEVEL IS 1,233.0 MILLION POUNDS.
THE SECRETARY SAID 1976 IMPORTS PROBABLY WOULD EXCEED THE
TRIGGER LEVEL WERE IT NOT FOR THE EXPECTED ARRANGEMENTS WITH
SUPPLYING COUNTRIES. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT IMPORT PROSPECTS
WILL BE REVIEWED QUARTERLY. THE NEXT ESTIMATE OF 1976 IMPORTS
OF MEAT SUBJECT TO THE MEAT IMPORT LAW WILL BE MADE LATE IN
MARCH AND ANNOUNCED ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1.

THE DECISION TO NEGOTIATE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS IS DUE
IN PART TO CONTINUING IMPORT RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON BEEF
IN OTHER MAJOR IMPORTING COUNTRIES. CATTLE NUMBERS IN PRINCIPAL
SUPPLYING COUNTRIES HAVE INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY DURING THE
PAST SEVERAL YEARS. WITH OTHER MAJOR WORLD MARKETS CONTINUING
TO BE RESTRICTED, INCREASED EXPORTS FROM MAJOR SUPPLYING COUNTRIES CO
ULD FURTHER AFFECT U.S. BEEF PRODUCERS,
RESULTING IN DISRUPTION OF U.S. BEEF SUPPLIES IN FUTURE YEARS.
ROBINSON
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